

Message Text

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USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 3575

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: PINT, ES

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY RECTOR RESIGNS

REF: A) SAN SALVADOR A-74; B) SAN SALVADOR A-96;

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY - UNIVERSITY OF EL SALVADOR RECTOR ALLWOOD PAREDES RESIGNED AUGUST 30 UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE GOES, ASSERTING THAT THE UES WAS "UNGOVERNABLE" AND WARNING THAT THE GOES MIGHT AGAIN INTERVENE IN THE UES IF STUDENTS CONTINUE TO DISRUPT THE CAMPUS. NEVERTHELESS, STUDENT AGITATION AGAINST UNPOPULAR FACULTY MEMBERS CONTINUES, AND OPEN ENROLLMENT HAS BECOME AN ISSUE AS THE UES NEARS ITS PHYSICAL LIMIT TO ACCEPT NEW STUDENTS. ALLWOOD'S REMOVAL, IN AND OF ITSELF, WILL NOT SIGNIFICANTLY ALTER THE SITUATION AT THE UES. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE IT WILL NOT REOPEN FOR THE NEXT SEMESTER. END SUMMARY.

2. DR JUAN ALLWOOD PAREDES, MILD-MANNERED AND SCHOLARLY RECTOR THE TROUBLED UES SINCE JULY 1973, PRESENTED HIS "IRREVOCABLE" RESIGNATION AUG 30. WHEN THE RESIGNATION TAKES EFFECT SEPT 10, VICE RECTOR DR CARLOS ALFARO CASTILLO
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WILL BECOME ACTING RECTOR UNTIL THE UNIVERSITY GENERAL ASSEMBLY ELECTS A PERMANENT SUCCESSOR TO ALLWOOD. ALLWOOD SAID HE RESIGNED

BECAUSE "UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES THE UNIVERSITY IS UNGOVERNABLE." HE CHARGED THAT UNNAMED OUTSIDE GROUPS SEEK TO KEEP THE CAMPUS IN TURMOIL FOR POLITICAL REASONS. HE ASSERTED THAT THE HIGHLY AUTONOMOUS CHARACTER OF THE UES' EIGHT SCHOOLS AND THE LACK OF DISCIPLINARY MECHANISMS MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO FORGE A CONSENSUS ON THE PURPOSE OF THE UNIVERSITY. ALLWOOD IMPLIED THAT THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF HIS RESIGNATION WAS THE DAY LONG DISTURBANCES AT THE CAMPUS AUGUST 21. IN THE MOST DRAMATIC INCIDENT THAT DAY, A GROUP OF STUDENTS, SOME ALLEGEDLY UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL, DISRUPTED A GRADUATION CEREMONY IN THE AGRONOMY SCHOOL BY SETTING OFF FIRECRACKERS AND CHANTING OBSCENITIES. HE WARNED THAT, IF THE SMALL GROUP OF STUDENT ACTIVISTS CONTINUES TO DISRUPT THE CAMPUS, IT MIGHT PROVOKE THE GOES INTO ANOTHER INTERVENTION OF THE UES.

3. STUDENT MILITANCY HAS GROWN CONSTANTLY SINCE THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED FAU SWEEPED STUDENT ELECTIONS IN JANUARY. USING STRIKES AND PERSONAL VILIFICATION IN THE CAMPUS PRESS AND OVER ITS LOUDSPEAKER SYSTEM, STUDENTS HAVE FORCED THE RESIGNATION OF THE DEAN AND VICE DEAN OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOL, AS WELL AS OF FOUR DEPARTMENT HEADS (REF A AND B). THE LATEST VICTIM IS LIC LUIS SIDNEY CASTRO ESCOBAR, WHO RESIGNED SEPTEMBER 5 AS HEAD OF THE SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT AFTER A THREE-WEEK STUDENT STRIKE. MOREOVER, STUDENTS, WITH THE HELP OF A FEW FACULTY ALLIES, HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BLOCK THE ELECTION OF SUCCESSORS NOT TO THEIR LIKING. THE MEDICAL SCHOOL, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS BEEN WITHOUT A PERMANENT DEAN SINCE FEBRUARY. THE ASSEMBLY ITSELF HAS BEEN UNABLE TO ELECT A PERMANENT REPLACEMENT FOR DR FRANCISCO BETRAND GALINDO, WHO RESIGNED AS ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT WHEN HE BECAME AMBASSADOR TO THE US IN NOV 1973. (THIS BODES ILL FOR THE CHANCES OF ELECTING A PERMANENT SUCCESSOR TO ALLWOOD.) IN ADDITION, THE STUDENTS ARE ACTIVELY PRESSING ON TWO "BREAD AND BUTTER" ISSUES: OPEN ENROLLMENT AND MATRICULATION FEES. UES AUTHORITIES DECIDED THAT, BECAUSE OF LIMITATIONS OF SPACE, FUNDS AND QUALIFIED STAFF, ONLY 5900 OF 7100 "ELIGIBLE" NEW STUDENTS COULD BE ADMITTED NEXT SEMESTER. STUDENT LEADERS HAVE

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ATTACKED THIS VIOLATION OF THE OPEN ENROLLMENT POLICY ADOPTED BEFORE THE 1972 INTERVENTION AND ARE ALSO ENCOURAGING STUDENTS NOT TO PAY THE NEW MATRICULATION FEE, WHICH WAS RAISED FROM 10 TO 20 COLONES (FROM US \$4 TO \$8).

4. COMMENT: THOUGH THE PRESS TREATED ALLWOOD'S MOVE AS A SURPRISE, KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVERS HAVE EXPECTED IT FOR MONTHS (REF A). HE CLEARLY FAILED TO FIND A WAY OF COPING WITH STUDENT MILITANCY AND WAS, SINCE JULY, UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM THE GOES, ESPECIALLY THE MILITARY, TO STEP DOWN. HE APPARENTLY

SAW THE AUG 21 INCIDENT -- IN WHICH HE WAS NOT PERSONALLY INVOLVED - AS A FACE SAVING WAY OUT. HE REPORTEDLY WILL LEAVE THE COUNTRY TO CONDUCT RESEARCH ON A GOES STIPEND. ALLWOOD'S POINT ABOUT THE STRUCTURAL WEAKNESS OF THE UNIVERSITY SEEMS VALID, THOUGH IT MAY BE QUESTIONED WHETHER A MAN OF HIS TEMPERAMENT, EVEN IF ARMED WITH BROAD FORMAL POWERS, COULD HAVE PROVIDED THE STRONG LEADERSHIP THE UES SORELY NEEDS.

5. IN ANY EVENT, ALFARO CASTILLO, WHO FAVORS A TOUGHER LINE AGAINST THE STUDENTS, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE SOON PUT TO A TEST OF WILLS. THE GOES' NEXT STEP MAY BE TO FORCE THE RESIGNATION OF LIC RENE VAQUERANO, DEAN OF SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES, THE LARGEST AND MOST RADICAL SCHOOL AT THE UES. VAQUERANO HAS BEEN HIGHLY COOPERATIVE WITH STUDENT LEADERS AND IS REGARDED BY SOME AS THE GREATEST SINGLE SOURCE OF TROUBLE ON THE CAMPUS. WHILE THE STUDENTS MAY ACQUIESCE IN THE REMOVAL OF VAQUERANO, THEY WILL PROBABLY SEEK TO BLOCK THE ELECTION OF A SUCCESSOR. THUS, ALLWOOD'S REMOVAL IN AND OF ITSELF WILL NOT SIGNIFICANTLY ALTER THE UES SITUATION. THE PROSPECTS FOR STABILITY AT THE UES ARE SO UNPROMISING THAT SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THE UES WILL NOT REOPEN FOR ITS NEXT SEMESTER, DUE TO START EARLY NEXT MONTH.
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